

Tennessee Recognized for *Promising Practices* in Goal Five Fact Sheet

Goal Five – Mathematics and Science

This goal aims to have U.S. students first in the world in mathematics and science achievement. There will also be system wide strengthening of mathematics and science education with emphasis on the early grades; a 50 percent increase in the number of mathematics and science teachers with a substantive background in the respective fields; and a significant increase in the number of U.S. college graduates, especially minorities and women, completing degrees in mathematics, science and engineering.

For *Promising Practices*, the key indicator was computers, considered as math resources, and in particular what states increased the percentage of public school 8th grades whose math teachers report having computers in their math classrooms.

Tennessee: Tennessee led the nation on this indicator with 54 percent of public school 8th grade math teachers reporting having computers available in the math classroom. State officials attribute this to the following programs and policies:

- *Virtual School*, sponsored by Vanderbilt University and Oak Ridge National Lab, in collaboration with State Department of Education, connected classrooms to the Internet; placed a computer in all public schools; trained 7,500 teachers; and gave them access to email accounts.
- *ConnectTEN* was a vehicle to help all schools gain Internet access with enough equipment to allow a minimum of one computer per school. Currently all state schools share access to a statewide network that links all 95 counties.
- Federal Technology Literacy Grant facilitated more sophisticated use of technology in the classroom. Tennessee used Technology Literacy Grant funds to create financial incentives for teachers who completed professional development related to technology use.

What is *Promising Practices*?

- A report that details successful practices and policies in place in the states that have made progress toward the eight National Education Goals.
- Highlights the programs and policies that state officials attributed for their success.
- Serves as a tool to help states and schools replicate the highlighted successes. By extension it encourages greater progress in education, focused attention on results and helps sustain public support for education improvement.
- For a copy of *Promising Practices*, please visit www.negp.gov or call 202-724-0015.

Contact information:

Media Contact: Brian Turmail 202-842-3600 ext 222

Sherrie Edwards 202-842-3600 ext 223

Tennessee Contact: Tennessee Department of Education, 615-741-2731 or www.k12.tn.us

Goals Panel Contact: John Barth, Senior Education Associate, 202-724-0015

